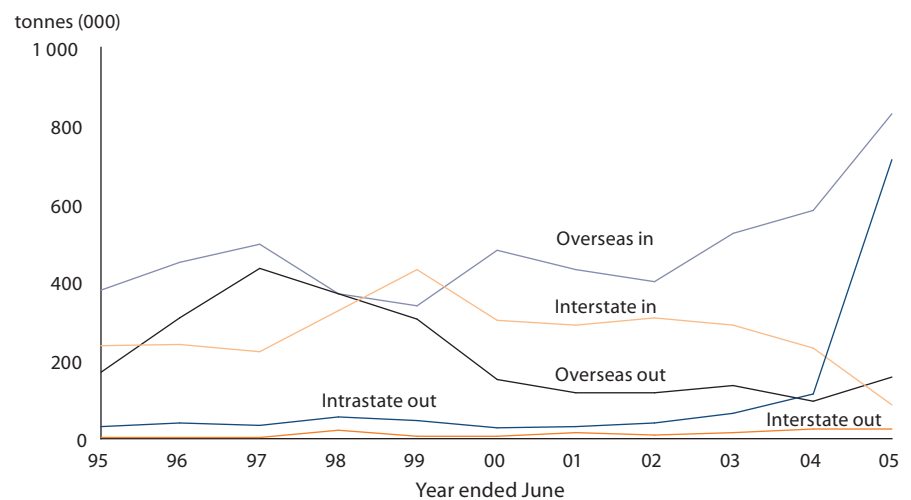




Transport and Communication

- Good transport and communication links are critical to the Territory's development, given the small size of the local market, relative isolation from major markets in southern Australia and the small and widely dispersed Territory population.
- In 2004-05, the transport and communication sector accounted for 6.3 per cent of gross state product and represents about 6.9 per cent of total Territory employment.
- The completion of the Adelaide to Darwin rail link in late 2003 represents a major milestone in the development of the Territory's transport infrastructure. Rail is now the dominant mode of transport for the north-south freight route. It also provides opportunities for regional development, particularly as a cost-effective method for the transport of bulk commodities.
- The volume of freight through the Port of Darwin continues to increase, and is expected to grow further with recent improvements to facilities at East Arm, including a bulk liquids terminal and equipment to facilitate the transfer of oil.
- Both international and domestic air capacity has grown strongly over the last 12 months, with Tiger Airways commencing operations on the Darwin-Singapore route and the arrival of Qantas subsidiary Jetstar.
- A new contract with Telstra to provide Territory Government information and communication technology (ICT) services includes an industry development program that is expected to generate 170 new jobs.

Trade through Port of Darwin



Note: The large increase in 'Intrastate Out' in 2004-05 is armour rock used for the construction of the Bayu-Undan sub-sea gas pipeline

Source: Department of Planning and Infrastructure